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FEBRUARY 3, 1978, ISSUE NO. 5

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 5 FEBRUARY 3, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:
FISH BOXES

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Scott Simons ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Al Ristori CONSERVATION EDITOR
Ken Walsh NATIONAL ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Stu Miller LOCAL ADVERTISING MANAGER
Pete Barrett NEW JERSEY EDITOR
Tim Coleman NEW ENGLAND EDITOR
Rich Reina Jr. PRODUCTION MANAGER

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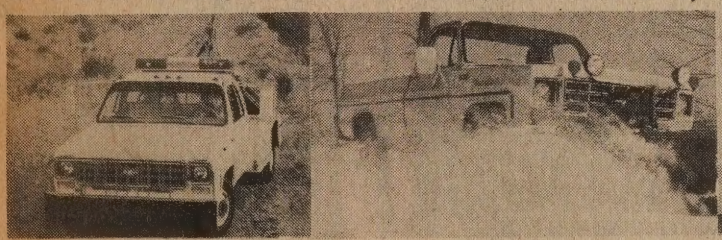

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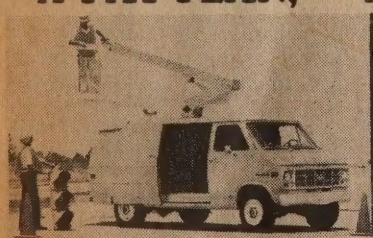

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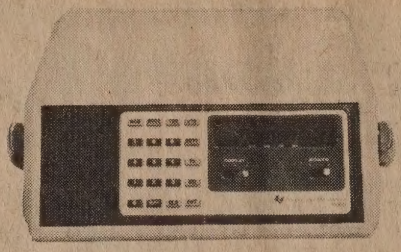

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CHUM LINES

WINTER FISHING CLOTHING TIP

I must say that Mr. Lilker's articl on "Dressing for Winter Fishing," i Issue #1 was most informative. How ever he has failed to mention, a every other outdoor writer has o dressing for winter sports, the virtu of the "Insulated Mechanics Suit."

This is a one-piece suit, zip front with usually at least seven pocket and when combined with the follow ing clothing provides a sleeping ba effect which has kept me warm an comfortable from forty-five degrees t temperatures below Zero.

Under the suit I wear standar cotton long johns and dungarees; o top a Tee shirt, flannel shirt followe by a light, waist-length down jacke Zipped up tight, it offers grea protection against the elements, an when it warms up, by unzipping th suit, jacket and/or shirt allows th body to breathe. The best thing abou this suit is that it can be purchased a any large department store for unde $30.

Note, however, that it should b bought one size larger to allow fo easy movement.

To all the gentlemen that the pu the L.I.F. together, please keep u the splendid job. **Denis Useo.**

Thanks for the tip!

Pass It On...

CONSERVATION CAMP DINNER

Annually we sponsor and financ youngsters (as many as we ca afford), between 11 and 13 years age, to attend a week of instruction a the New York State Conservatio Camp at DeBruce, New York. The are the hope and promise of tomorro for us all.

On Saturday night, March 18, 197 we are holding our fifth annu Sportsmen's Family Night at th George Fisher Middle School i Carmel, New York. The auditoriu seats 800 people and we are antic pating a large turnout.

For further information, contac Putnam County Fish & Game Assoc ation, Inc., c/o Mr. Fred Ducad 1920 Maple Court, Yorktown Height New York 10598.

CLUB NEWS

STRIPER SURF CLUB OPEN HOUSE

The Striper Surf Club, Inc., is pleased to announce that the Club will hold its 2nd Annual Open House on Friday, February 10, at 8 PM at the Plattdeutsche Park Restaurant, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square.

Last year's program on surf fishing for striped bass was such a huge success, the Club hopes to get additional space this year.

The emphasis will be on the surf fishing primer with classes on all technical aspects that go into becoming a successful bass fisherman. Last year, there was a turn-away crowd of 125 guests. Since we must reserve space and provide refreshments—for which there is no charge—reservations are a must. Since beer will be served, no minors will be admitted.

For reservations, please call: Mike Lynch, 212-738-0346 or Sal Siciliano, 516-825-2818.

BABYLON TUNA CLUB CODFISH CONTEST RESULTS

29 lbs. 8 oz.—Valeria Jessen—Blue Water.

28 lbs. 9 oz.—Christine Jessen—Blue Water.

26 lbs. 8 oz.—Ray Seagren—Miss Marion.

23 lbs. 5 oz.—Richie Froberg—Blue Water

23 lbs. 1 oz.—Steve Pace, Jr.—Blue Water.

23 lbs. 0 oz.—Al Lorenzetti, Sr.—Skimmer

15 lbs. 5 oz.—Ken Danielson—Miss Marion.

4 lbs. 10 oz.—Al Kaich—Speedy V.

HIGH HILL STRIPER CLUB ANNUAL AWARDS

The High Hill Striper Club is a surf fishing club based in Bellemore. The following awards were made for 1977.

OVERALL—
Largest Bass:
39 lbs. 6 oz., Jim Kelly
Largest Bluefish:
20 lbs. 12 oz., Bill "Doc" Muller
Largest Weakfish:
9 lbs. 10 oz., Bill Young
Most Club Points:
4776, Fred Schwab
Most Weakfish Points:
762, Fred Schwab
Most Bass Points:
164, George Schuchman
Most Bluefish Points:
1056, Bill "Doc" Muller
Most Released Points:
1006, Fred Schwab
Most Released Fish:
150, Fred Schwab

JUNIOR DIVISION—
Largest Bass:
13 lbs., 8 oz., Maureen Buss
Largest Bluefish:
14 lbs. 9 oz., Chris Rance
Largest Weakfish:
8 lbs. 13 oz., Chris Rance

WOMAN'S DIVISION—
Largest Weakfish:
9 lbs. 15 oz., Gayle Karika

CONTEST WINNERS—
Flounder Contest:
2 lbs. 8 oz., Bill Cantley
June—Weakfish:
8 lbs. 1 oz., Fred Schwab
July—Striped Bass:
24 lbs., Paul Reynolds
August—Weakfish:
6 lbs. 1 oz., Bob Krauss
September—Bluefish:
Hank Sudak
October I—Weakfish:
8 lbs. 8 oz., Fred Schwab
October II—Bluefish:
16 lbs., Bob Krauss
November—Bluefish:
20 lbs. 12 oz., Bill "Doc" Muller

The High Hill Striper Club has a few openings for new members. If you are a surf fisherman seeking to join a club, contact Bill Muller at 667-5344.

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NEW RED-TAILED VI-KE® LURE FOR DEEP JIGGING

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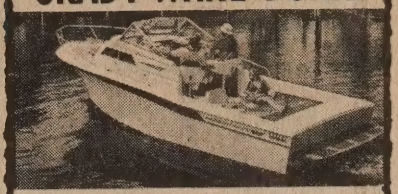

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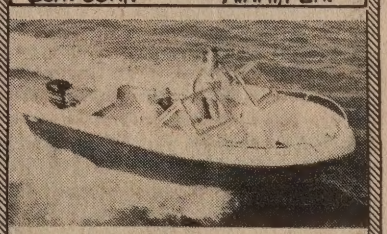

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

U.S./CANADIAN BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS POSE THREAT TO GEORGES BANK FISHERY

While problems relating to 200 Mile Limit boundaries were quickly settled with Mexico, Cuba, and the Bahamas, resolution of our northern boundary remains up in the air. Canada claims a line drawn through George's Banks, while we feel that the Georges area should be completely within our zone as it's a natural extension of our land mass. Since a good case can be made for both positions, this will be a most difficult problem to solve. George's is a very desirable fishing area and the spawning grounds for many species that migrate into New England and Mid-Atlantic areas.

Temporarily, fishermen of both nations are being allowed to fish in the disputed area, as well as in the traditional fishing grounds that are clearly within each country's boundaries. This arrangement has created a certain amount of dissatisfaction on both sides, and resulted in considerable overfishing of hard pressed stocks in the disputed zone. It appears as if we'll have to live with this situation for another year, but the Administration is intent on settling the problem before the year is out. No one can quarrel with that general concept, but we must be alert to the possibility that a quick settlement may result in permanent damage to our fisheries.

The present State Department proposal calls for a joint commission that would control fisheries where migration between the zones is a factor. This would include such species as mackerel, cod, pollack, haddock, and sea herring. Though the Mid-Atlantic Council would be included in the joint commission, we would be in the minority and would lose effective control of mackerel and other species that might fall under this arrangement. In essence, this would violate the intent of the 200 Mile Limit act and take management of our fisheries away from the public.

After receiving a background report on the negotiations from State Department representatives at a special closed meeting in Arlington, Virginia on January 4, the Mid-Atlantic Council adopted a position, to be forwarded to Ambassador Cutler, outlining the parameters around which we feel a permanent agreement should be forged. Proposed by Dr. Bill Hargis (Va.) and seconded by Yours Truly, it provides:

1. current negotiations should consider only the settlement of a boundary between the United States and Canada and matters related to fisheries should be postponed until such has been accomplished;

2. in establishing a boundary between the two countries, United States should seek to preserve the maximum possible sovereignty over ocean territory and resources;

3. negotiations on fishery resources—when held—should preserve the role of the Councils in management of fisheries to assure proper public participation, and should also provide for reasonable management of the resources in the fisheries in which they are based;

4. should a single boundary line not prove feasible, the authority of any bilateral commission, if and when established, should be restricted to the disputed area (geographical area between the two lines claimed);

5. representation on any such bilateral commission should provide parity for affected Councils in all fishery management negotiations and decisions, and

6. barring development of a satisfactory and acceptable bilateral treaty which embodies these principles, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council urges that existing interim arrangements with Canada be extended for twelve months, exclusive of Article 7, during which time a more equitable resolution of the issues at stake can be explored.

New York member Bill Pell, of Greenport, has been attending the negotiating sessions for sometime as the Councils' representative. Bill has seen little indication that State is willing to give our concerns a great deal of weight. Since these negotiations involve a treaty, whatever agreement comes about will have to be submitted to the Senate for ratification. If the present trend continues and an unsatisfactory treaty results, we'll be forced to take the matter up with our Senators and urge rejection of the treaty.

U.S. TUNA CONSERVATION POSITION REJECTED IN I.C.C.A.T.

United States' attempts to obtain international agreement on bluefin tuna conservation measures through the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) failed to draw support from any country other than Canada. Our delegation was attempting to put an end to the Japanese capture of over 9,000 giant tuna (almost all in pre-spawning condition) in the Gulf of Mexico during the winter and spring. This intense fishery has occurred during the past two years while American fishermen have been restricted to little more than 2000 giants each year. The Japanese fishery is a relatively new one (transferred from the depleted Mediterranean) and was only discovered last winter as Coast Guard patrols in connection with the 200 Mile Limit increased.

It now appears perfectly clear that we cannot depend on international cooperation in preserving the bluefin tuna fishery. The answer to the problem is now, and has long been, quite obvious: the tuna exemption in the 200 Mile Limit act must be eliminated! Such action has been recommended by most of the Councils, the Sport Fishing Institute, American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association, and many other groups. Chairman Robert Leggett, of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee's Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife, has promised a hearing on this matter early in the year. A great deal of public support must be forthcoming if we are to have any chance of speeding up the process, given the continuing opposition of the powerful California tuna industry.

In addition to the problem we have with giant tuna due to the tuna exemption in the law, school tuna are also affected. American purse seiners are limited to 1000 metric tons, a quantity they take in a matter of a few days in June. Anglers are restricted to four school tuna per day—not a very meaningful restriction in view of the terrible tuna fishing of recent years. Yet, Canadian seiners operating off the New Jersey coast last summer took an estimated 320 tons of tuna in the eighty pound class. Ironically, the Canadians have no tuna exemption in their law and surely wouldn't permit such an American fishery in the Maritime Provinces. That was the reason for the Mid-Atlantic Council's request that Article 7 of the interim agreement with Canada be dropped or amended. That article exempts tuna from the agreement—an action which permits the Canadians to continue their school tuna fishery off our coast at the expense of American fishermen. State was reluctant to open up any points of contention in that interim agreement, but I feel that if they have the time to worry over the human rights of people all over the globe, they must surely have the time to take care of the interests of the American people!

International cooperation as a means of preserving the bluefin tuna has proven to be a failure. Under the circumstances, it's becoming impossible to justify restrictions on American fishermen when other countries slaughter tuna in our waters virtually without restriction. A change in the law is vital if we're to preserve this great resource. Let your Congressman know how you feel about this!

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

How-To Tips for Party Boat Fishing

Many excellent sinker bouncers admit the skills they possess came through knowledge attained aboard party boats. In fact, fishing from these rugged deep-water craft has become a way of life for many of these superb fishermen. The reason for this is simple enough: these fellows can usually count on putting fish in the bucket.

This type of fishing, however, entails a little more thought than just selecting a spot at the rail and dunking bait. Although this lucky-shot procedure produces fish on occasion, it is the party boat angler armed with knowledge and the necessary equipment who consistently catches fish. Any experienced fisherman will tell you those anglers depending on luck alone are bound to come to grief.

How to catch the many fish available to the party boat angler will be covered at the appropriate time in future articles. But for now, I think it best to shed a little light on those minor—yet important—details so necessary for a day's enjoyment on the open sea. I'll run them down as they pop into my head. I believe each one is important in its own right.

Actually, your fishing day starts before you step aboard the party boat of your choice. It begins right at home—the night before you venture forth. Be sure you have all your gear checked and ready to go before you hit the sack. Don't do it in the morning! If possible, check your stuff and load it in the car before retiring.

That sounds like common sense, but do you know how many sleep-fogged fishermen leave important items behind in their haste to get going? Far too many. I've turned the trick myself on occasion. I once left my loaded tackle bag on the kitchen floor.

Mentioning tackle bags brings up the following. Make it a point to carry extra equipment—especially hooks and sinkers. A spool of monofilament to match the stuff on your reel should be included. Better yet: carry a loaded spare reel. You may never need it, but if you do, it's worth its weight in gold.

Many fishermen pay little heed to this last bit of advice, knowing that if necessary they can rent an outfit for the day. True, most times they can. But take a tip from me: doing so should only be a last resort. Most of this rental stuff, while it may be in serviceable condition, has gone through the mill. You'll also find it to be on the heavy side—which is okay if you're codfishing, but not if you're out after porgies and other light-weight scrappers. The reason why rental equipment is purposely rugged is because light stuff won't stand the often outlandish misuse given it by unthinking or uncaring fishermen.

Into that tackle bag should go a few more important items. One of those versatile utility knives available in most hardware stores is a must. True, the mate will have cut the bait into suitable size for the fish you're after, but you may want to trim it, or cut back some line, or free a hook fouled in clothing. And no fisherman is as pesty as the guy who makes a steady habit of borrowing another's knife.

Long gone are the days when party boat skippers supplied butter tubs for fishermen to hold their catch, so you should think of carrying a suitable container. You'll find a clean burlap bag is good for this purpose. If you can manage it, bring along an extra one. If you're in the big-fish pool, use it to cover or separately hold any outsize fish you catch. Pool winners are often decided by ounces; therefore, if you can keep your possible money-fish damp and out of the sun's rays and drying winds, you'll be much further ahead.

A supply of dry rags is important—especially in winter! If you handle petroleum products or turpentine in your daily job, carry a can of waterless hand cleaner and make sure you use it before first handling bait. You'll be thankful for those rags, then.

And don't forget a small roll of winding tape may come in handy for temporary repairs on loose guide windings. Don't trust this make-shift job too far, however. It will get you through the day, but make sure any loose guides are re-wrapped with the proper materials as soon as possible.

Reel seats and ferrules have the annoying habit of loosening at the wrong time, but if you carry a stick of ferrule cement (available in any tackle shop) you can make repairs. Sometimes just heating the affected parts with a match will reset that loose ferrule or reel seat.

And clothing. Don't overlook the importance of dressing properly. Many a day of good codfishing has been ruined for unthinking anglers who failed to realize that the winter ocean is always cold regardless of that spell of freakish mild weather on shore. Invest in some good insulated underwear. Add a set of foul-weather gear—no zippers!—a warm hat and insulated boots, and you're all set.

I leave the choice of gloves to you. When dry, gloves are okay, but murder when they get wet on cold days! Perhaps rubber or plastic gloves worn over cotton or wool

(Continued on page 12.)

One fish up—and another on the way.

It's easy when you know how.

FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

HADDOCK
Melanogrammus aegletinus

ANOTHER COD! Haddock are also members of the cod family and like the cod, have been part of the international debate over the control of fisheries off the East Coast of the North American Continent. In fact, haddock probably more than cod stand to benefit from the 200 Mile Limit, since the stocks of this species have been drastically reduced over the last decade. Perhaps this is the natural cycle of the fish, but most observers agree that heavy fishing pressure has been responsible for at least a part of the decline.

DESCRIPTION. Haddock are shaped like codfish, but have a black lateral line and there is a brownish blotch on the side of the body just above the pectoral fin. In addition, the first portion of the dorsal fin is higher than that of a cod and is more conspicuously triangular. The tail is also more forked than the cod. Haddock have smaller mouths than either cod or pollack and they are not as deep bodied. Otherwise, the arrangement, size, and number of rays in the fins are about the same for haddock and cod.

COLORATION: Haddock tend to be very similar in color, although some variation is noted from time to time. In general, most haddock are grayish on the dorsal surface and white on the belly. The gray is not pure, however, and is best described as bluish, purplish, silvery, or pinkish. Some haddock may appear gold along the sides, while others may have several dark bars across the sides.

SIZE. Haddock are smaller than either cod or pollack. However, the species can grow to about forty pounds. It seems that environmental factors and perhaps competition from other ground fish species limits their growth. Although from time to time, specimens are either netted or taken on hook and line that may weigh as much as fifteen or twenty pounds, this is very unusual. Only about two to five fish out of every thousand captured will exceed thirty inches in length. The average is between fifteen and twenty-five inches. Such fish weigh about one-and-one-quarter pounds to about five pounds. The following table summarizes age, length, and weight relationships.

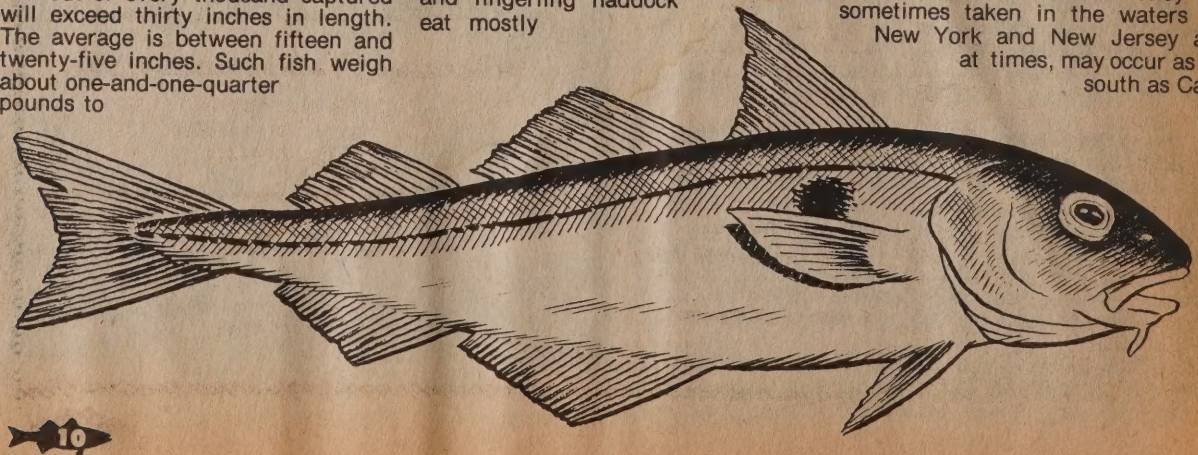
AGE	LENGTH inches	WEIGHT lbs.	oz.
1	9-10	—	7
2	12	—	12
3	17.5	1	14
4	19	2	10
5	21	3	8
6	22.5	4	8
7	24	5	5
8	25.5	6	2
	30	9	15

HABITS. Although cod and haddock are bottom fish, the haddock prefer a more narrow zone. They are not commonly found in shallow water and if they do become available, they are never as abundant as small cod and pollack which often swarm into shallow water during early spring and late fall. On our side of the Atlantic, the fish seem to prefer water that is between twenty and one hundred fathoms. The species seems to prefer a narrower temperature zone than do cod. They will leave an area when the temperature approaches 36° Fahrenheit on the lower end of the scale and the low fifties on the upper end of the scale. Haddock are more exclusively a ground fish than cod or pollack. Both cod and pollack will chase bait off the bottom. This is especially true for pollack, of course, which will herd bait to the surface and up against the beaches. Haddock will chase small bait fish, but remain close to the bottom. Furthermore, whereas cod and pollack may be found over a variety of bottoms, the haddock is much more selective. They prefer a uniform bottom composed of pebbles, shells, hard sand, clay, or mixed bottoms composed of several of these materials. They will avoid rocky areas where cod are commonly abundant, as well as ledges and kelp beds.

THE MENU. Newly-hatched fry and fingerling haddock eat mostly copepods. After several months, they will selectively feed on bottom invertebrates such as amphipods, small starfish, mollusks, worms, sea cucumbers, and crabs. Larger haddock will eat squid, sand eels, small eels, small herring, and just about any bait that is small enough for them to catch and swallow.

SPAWNING. Haddock, like most of the cod family, are very prolific. A four-pound female can lay about 600,000 eggs. The eggs float after they are fertilized. They hatch in about thirteen to fifteen days when the temperature is in the low forties or upper thirties. The eggs hatch near the surface where the young drift for the first few months of their life. Young haddock are commonly found sheltered in the tentacles of jellyfish. When they are about three to four inches, they have drifted into quite shallow water having been pushed there by winds and currents. At this time, they will take up a life on the bottom and at the end of their first summer season will begin to migrate into deeper water where they will remain for the rest of their lives. Considering that the haddock grows slowly and does not have a long life span, sexual maturity is reached rather late. Most individuals seem to mature during their third or fourth year, although many may not mature until the fifth year. On the European side of the Atlantic, the fish may mature earlier and ripe specimens of nine inches have been reported. According to our best information on growth and age relationships, this would mean that this fish was about one-year-old.

RANGE. The range of this fish is rather restricted when compared to some of its ground fish relatives and neighbors. Most of the stock is located off northern New England states. They are most abundant between Cape Cod and the southern part of the Grand Banks. They are sometimes taken in the waters off New York and New Jersey and at times, may occur as far south as Cape

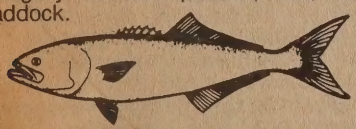


Hatteras, although this is not common. Because haddock do not tolerate water temperatures below the mid-thirties, they do not occur off Labrador and Greenland. Most of the spawning of the species occurs in the northern part of the range. Although some spawning does occur in shallower southern waters, the most productive grounds are along the southern edge of the Georges Bank. The activity seems to be concentrated in late February and early March.

ABUNDANCE. The species was considered traditionally as one of the most abundant of the commercially valuable ground fish in the North Atlantic. Yearly catches between sixty and two hundred million pounds were traditional until about a decade ago. Recent changes in coastal fisheries management, both for foreign nationals and domestic fishermen, have been designed to allow the haddock to recover from recent declines in the stocks. Since the species is very prolific, it is believed that these management policies will reflect as increased abundance in the species in the next few years.

GOOD SPORT. From the fisherman's point of view, the haddock is a valuable sport fish. When the stocks are up, large schools may be encountered which can provide for fast action. They bite greedily and fight pretty well.

SCROD. When I was a youngster, I used to wonder what it was like to catch a scrod. But disillusionment is a part of growing up, and I soon discovered that there was no such fish as a scrod. Rather, scrod is a commercial term that is used to denote any of several species of ground fish that happens to be available. The list of species in this category includes pollack, cod, and haddock.



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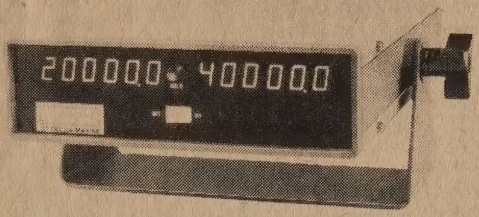

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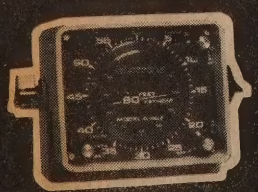

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Surf Side with John Fritz

Why Join A Club

The stereotyped image most people hold of a surf fisherman is that of a solitary person spending endless hours on a lonely stretch of beach hoping to be rewarded with a few prized fish. While solitude is an attraction to the sport of surf fishing, there are occasions when the companionship and joviality of others is desired.

One of the reasons I became involved in surf fishing was the difficulty in getting a partner for spur-of-the-moment boat trips. For several seasons I pounded the beach alone, occasionally taking along a boat fisherman hoping to make a convert out of him. After a few trips with loss of sleep, wet feet, and no fish as a reward, they soon lost interest.

The nature of this sport is not conducive to conversation—except during periods of inactivity or while bottom fishing in the daylight. Most often the crash of waves, the cover of darkness, or maybe the inbred secrecy of our clan hinders casual conversation. I'm not saying that lasting friendships are not formed on the beach, but rather that it is a hit-or-miss proposition. A more definite way to meet dedicated surfmen in a more relaxed setting is to join a club specializing in your sport. Most members who take time to join these organizations do so out of their love of the surf. While their degree of dedication may vary, the chances of meeting others who conform with your interest are multiplied.

Aside from establishing friendships, an active fishing club has many other benefits to offer the unaffiliated angler.

The greatest asset is found in the exchange of information, whether it is news of the latest hotspot or a new way to tie a stronger knot. One person can only cover so much waterfront and we all can learn something from the experience of others.

Word of blitz-type fishing can be relayed through the membership, using a pre-arranged calling schedule with the telephone. This system is more practical with small clubs having limited membership. It is my experience that while the larger clubs might seem more impressive, the smaller organizations have more advantages. The smaller clubs are more closely knit with a freer exchange of information among members. Also, their willingness to include newcomers in their outings is more evident.

Most clubs invite speakers to address the membership at regularly scheduled meetings. Although this is one source of information, I found many more tips to be gleaned from normal conversation with members. The typical bull sessions before and after the meetings offer a good opportunity to exchange ideas or to solve any difficulties one is experiencing.

During the long winter months, reliving the past year's achievements and speculating on the coming year's success, offers a break in the stay-at-home drudgery most of us fall into. The off-season is further broken up by the annual awards dinner and dance where the last year's accomplishments are honored with trophies, plaques, or monetary rewards. Which brings me to another attractive reason for joining a club—competition.

The thrill of catching striped bass and bluefish in the surf is in itself worth the effort. Add to this the spice of trying to outdo fellow surfmen and the reward and recognition become that much more satisfying. The congratulations offered by your family and neighbors when you open the fishbox after a successful trip, though welcome, does not compare to recognition received from other hard-working surfmen.

In addition to the year-long competition, short-term contests can be scheduled periodically throughout the season. These may take the form of intra-club contests or competition between one or more other clubs.

Special planned trips, either on charter boats or to famous fishing grounds away from the local scene, are part of the normal routine for many clubs. A trip on a charter boat requires other like-minded anglers who can be relied on to show on the given date. An individual seeking to arrange bodies for such a trip is confronted with a lot of headaches. Likewise, when attempting an extended trip to other surf fishing areas along the coast without advance knowledge of what is to be expected. Reservations for lodging and ferries; best time of the season; specific locations to fish, and lure and tackle requirements, are some of the items easier to accomplish within a club.

The surf fisherman's family is not to be left out of the schedule of events listed on numberous club agendas. Awards for women and children are available; many functions specifically for kids—such as flounder and snapper derbies—are planned.

Summer picnics or jamborees are the highlights of many club programs. Whether the affair is a simple get-together or a lavish function like the LIBBA Jamboree, all kids love the games and spirited play with groups of other children.

Aside from the benefits gained by the individual in joining a club, in return this person may help surf-casters in general. The surf fisherman is beset with an ever-increasing loss of his playground. The old axiom, "In unity is strength," holds true even among the individualistic surf clan. If we don't want more and more restrictions placed on our sport, we must have our voices heard. One lone voice is lost amongst the clatter of all the other interests demanding a piece of our beaches. By joining together and helping our organizations to be strong and vocal, our chances of being noticed are vastly increased. Therefore, it is incumbent on each of us to become involved if we wish to preserve our sport from oblivion.

Joining a club has its share of responsibilities. It takes hard work to run a successful association. Be prepared to get involved. The knowledge that you are a part of a well run club has its share of satisfaction in addition to those previously listed.

Sinker Bouncing: Party Boat Tips

(Continued from page 9.)

will work for you, but I find them too cumbersome.

You'll find many party boats have some type of hook disgorger available. But usually when I'm in need, someone has either beaten me to it, or it can't be located. Therefore, it's more convenient to keep one in your tackle bag. These, too, are available in any tackle shop and cost only a few cents.

These are but a few items and tips that will help make your fishing day more enjoyable. Some, like the above-mentioned hook disgorger, are not strictly essential; but others, like proper clothing, are. The choice is yours, but it's nice having everything possible going for you.

You may be sure the crackerjack party boat fisherman always does.

Editor's Head

(Continued from page 4.)

its limitations—and that includes boats.

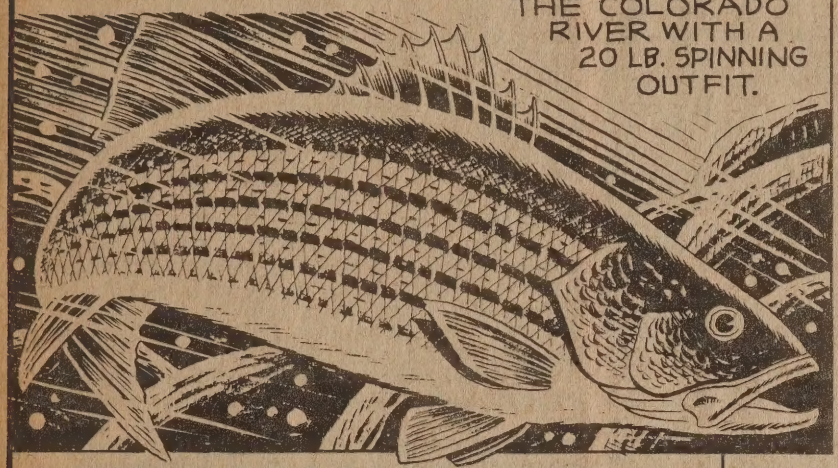
We claim no responsibility for these comments, but I think that you'll agree that the comments are interesting. I think that we can all find some of these statements to be helpful in defining a good fisherman, but unfortunately they do not answer all facets of our question. In the end we are probably better off trusting our instincts. We have all fished with and next to people that we would say were good or bad fishermen.

However, none of this will change the world, but it sure does help to pass the hours and provide us with an excuse to allow a few beers to trickle down our throats while mesmerized by a cozy winter fire!

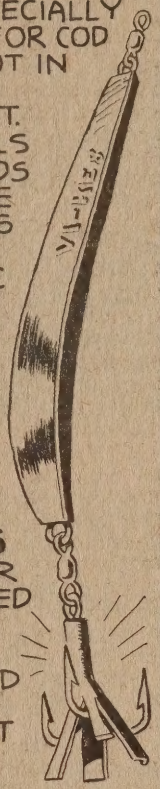
FISHING REPORTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

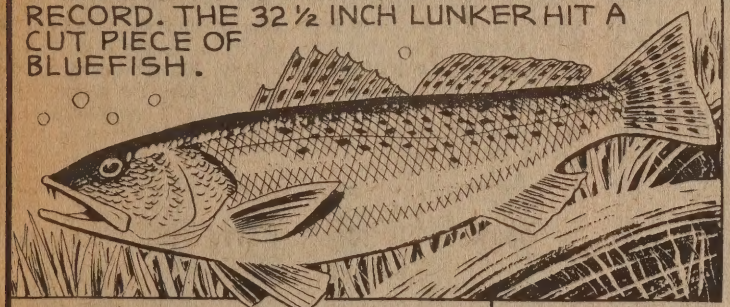
NEW WORLD RECORD STRIPED BASS, *FRESH WATER, THAT IS* – 59 LBS. 12 OZ. TAKEN ON A PLUG BY FRANK SMITH OF ARIZONA FISHING THE COLORADO RIVER WITH A 20 LB. SPINNING OUTFIT.



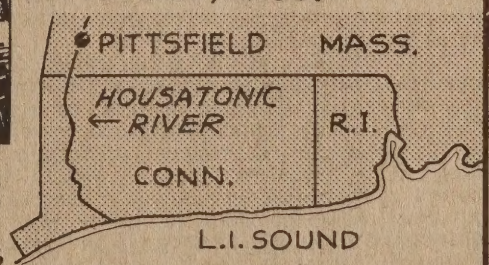
NEW BRIDGEPORT *VI-KE* ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR COD AND HALIBUT IN DEPTHS OF 100-600 FT. THE SWIVELS AT BOTH ENDS IMPROVE THE ACTION PLUS A DURABLE RED PLASTIC TAIL ON THE TREBLE HOOK. MADE IN SIZES FROM 6 TO 24 OUNCES.



A SPECKLED SEA TROUT OF 16 LBS. CAUGHT OFF MASON'S BEACH IN CHESAPEAKE BAY, MAY 22, 1977 BY BOBBY GIBBS IS THOUGHT TO BE A NEW ALL TACKLE WORLD RECORD. THE 32½ INCH LUNKER HIT A CUT PIECE OF BLUEFISH.



CONNECTICUT'S HOUSATONIC RIVER HAS BEEN DECLARED UNFIT FOR FISHING BECAUSE OF *PCB'S* DISCHARGED BY THE GENERAL ELECTRIC CO. PLANT UPSTREAM AT PITTSFIELD, MASS.



BLACK FOOTED FERRETS ARE ON THE EXTINCTION LIST BECAUSE OF LOSS OF HABITAT ON THE WESTERN PLAINS. THE SMALL WEASEL TYPE MAMMALS ARE DOWN TO FOUR IN CAPTIVITY AND ONE OF THEM HAS TERMINAL CANCER.

A 7 LB. 10 OZ. FRESHWATER LARGEMOUTH BLACK BASS WAS THE WINNING FISH IN LAST FALL'S NATIONAL BASS TOURNAMENT HELD ON THE N.Y. STATE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER. 156 FISHERMEN FROM 32 STATES CAUGHT 1,485 TOTALLING 3,444 LBS. 98% WERE RELEASED ALIVE. TOP SMALLMOUTH WAS 4 LBS. 9 OZ.

★HOW-TO SPECIAL★

HEAT SHRINKABLE TUBING

by Scott Simons

Heat shrinkable tubing is another of the many remarkable advancements that have been made in the technological age we live in. Virtually everyone that I know has had that "gee whiz" attitude after first seeing heat shrinkable tubing used—it's really amazing stuff! And it's many applications for fishing are only limited by the imagination of the fisherman, making it an excellent material for the do-it-yourselfer to keep himself busy during the idle winter months. Heat shrinkable tubing was originally developed for the engineering and electronics fields, and among its many applications are molded electrical coverings, component and cable protective jackets and connector strain relief transitions. It's made from a wide variety of plastics that include neoprene, silicone, polyvinyl, and polyolefins. And its propertie—resistance to water, flexibility and toughness—make it an excellent covering for jigs and other artificial lures. But what does heat shrinkable tubing actually do? As the name would imply it shrinks, naturally—but there's a lot more to it than that.

In appearance, the tubing looks ordinary enough—just a plastic tube that comes in four-foot lengths. But when it is manufactured, it is extruded in an **expanded** state that is twice the diameter of its **unexpanded** state. When the tubing in its expanded state is subjected to heat above its "Crystalline melting point," which is a minimum of 212° Fahrenheit (I don't know the celcius conversion, but then again, who the hell cares!) the tubing recovers, or "shrinks," to its original extruded diameter. If either a uniform or irregular-shaped object is placed inside the tubing before the heat is applied, the tubing will take the shape of the object until the maximum shrinkage is obtained, firmly encasing the object in plastic. And thus its application for fishing.

I was originally put onto the applications of heat shrinkable tubing by a subscriber of The Fisherman, Dave Avondolio. Dave is a real do-it-yourselfer, and we were talking a few years ago at the Fisherman booth at the Boat Show. In the conversation I mentioned to Dave that I was having great difficulty finding a way to make a diamond jig white, which at times under certain conditions would outfish the standard silver jig for striped bass and bluefish. Paint just didn't adhere well to the polished surface of a diamond jig, and the tape I had tried covering the jigs with just wouldn't hold up very long. Don told me about heat shrinkable tubing and sent me a few samples, and I have been using it ever since. The tubing is great: first, it is very tough and even holds up to the teeth of the bluefish. In photo 8, the bottom lure is a DeMaio Jig that I had covered with red tubing. Although it may be difficult to see, the tubing is still intact except for a half-inch gap in the center of the lure—this after catching twenty-six bluefish! I retired the jig, not because it wouldn't catch fish anymore, but just to keep it as a conversation/demonstration item.

The heat shrinkable tubing comes in a wide variety of colors, including white, red, blue, yellow and black. I have caught striped bass, bluefish and weakfish on all except the blue, which I haven't experimented with. But I suspect it would work well at dawn or dusk, or maybe even at night if the conditions and fishing techniques were right. The white works when the skies are very overcast or there is poor water clarity, while the red seems to work well all day—particularly when the sun is bright. Yellow works great in the fall when the predators are feeding on weakfish fry of about four inches, and the black tubing is excellent when the fish are feeding on sand eels, which is most of the time these days.

The tubing comes in expanded sizes ranging from 3/64 inches to four inches, but remember that when heat is applied the tubing will shrink a maximum of half the size. Example: tubing with a one-inch diameter will shrink to a half-inch maximum after heat is applied. To make a tight bond, you should use expanded tubing that is slightly larger than the object you want to cover. So to experiment, buy a few samples of the various sizes to find out what sizes you need. There are many manufacturers of heat shrinkable tubing, and the Raychem Corporation in Dix Hills, New York is among them. Their local distributor is Schaal Associates at 631 Old Willits Path, Hauppauge, New York 11787. Write them a letter and request their catalog. For tackle purposes, the polyolefin material RT-876 is excellent for its toughness and flexibility, and is stocked in four-foot lengths.

As I said, the uses of heat shrinkable tubing are only limited to your own imagination, but here are a few of its many: covering diamond jigs to give them color; reclaiming old, battered or chipped jigs. Larger tubing may be used to cover and bind a rod butt and reel seat that have become unglued from the rod blank. The fine diameter tubing of 3/64 inch can be used to mark depths on wire line. Just cut two-inch lengths of different color tubing and thread them on the wire. At measured intervals (100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400 feet, etc.), apply heat to a section of the tubing with a match to bind it to the wire. To duplicate the swimming action of a baitfish, tails or skirts can be added to the tubing. (See photo 2, right.) Using scissors, cut slits in the tubing and fan it out. When

(Continued on page 23.)

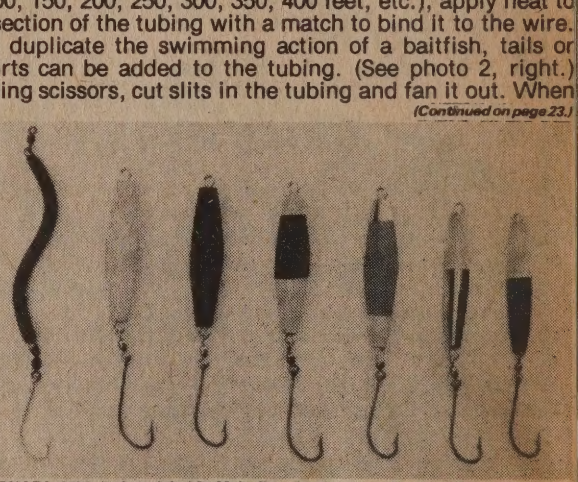


PHOTO ONE: ***(Left to right.)*** **DeMaio Jig w/black tubing; diamond jigs— white, black, white and black, normal silver and red and white, white and normal silver, white and black.**

PHOTO TWO: ***(Left to right.)*** **Black DeMaio jig, black diamond jig, yellow headed herring rig, skirted herring rig. (John Sekora molded heads.)**

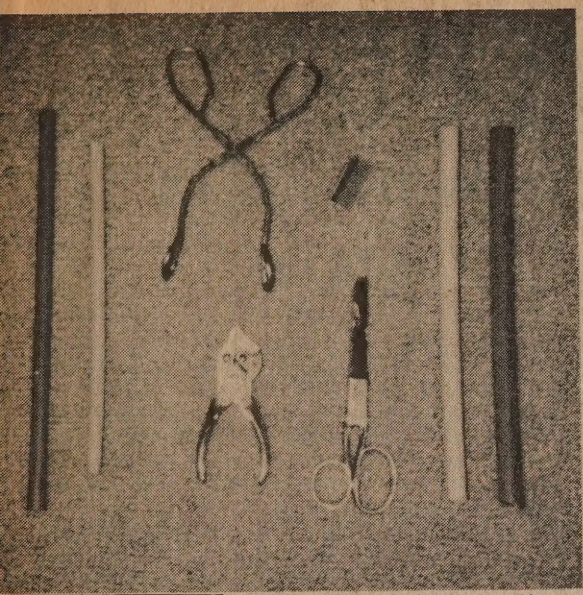


PHOTO THREE: Tools and materials. Four pieces of heat shrinkable tubing (HST) on left and right. Hot dog tongs, razor blade, scissors, sportmate pliers.

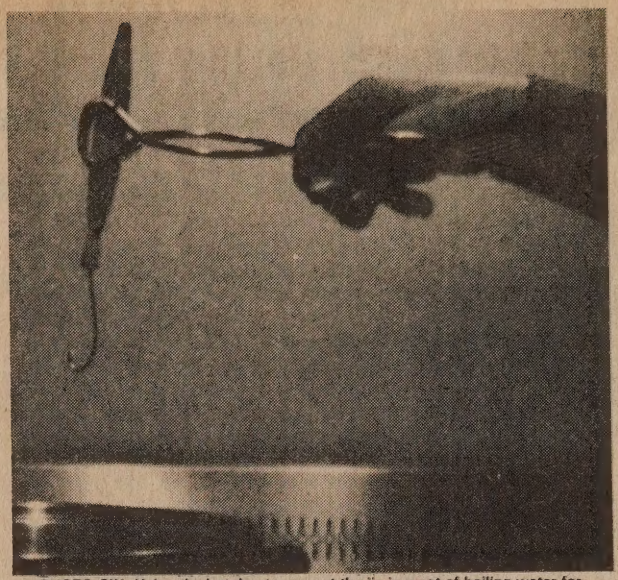


PHOTO SIX: Using the hot dog tongs, put the jig in a pot of boiling water for about a minute. Notice how the tubing has shrunk around the swivel. Ends of the jig should then be held over an open flame and slowly rotated for tight bond.

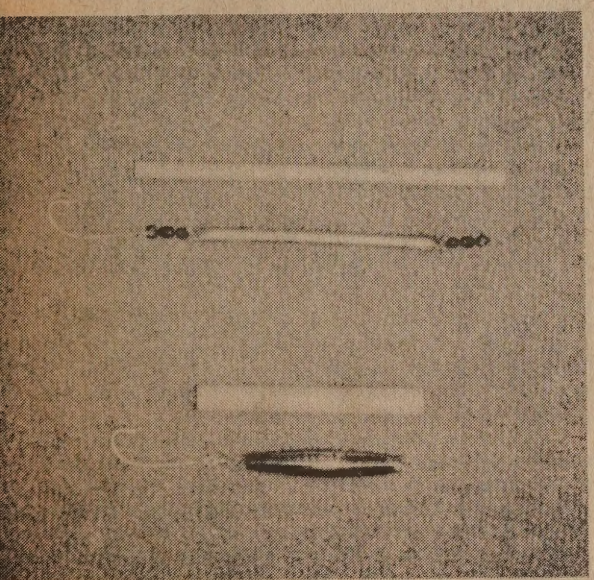


PHOTO FOUR: Cut a length of tubing that is long enough to cover the entire jig.

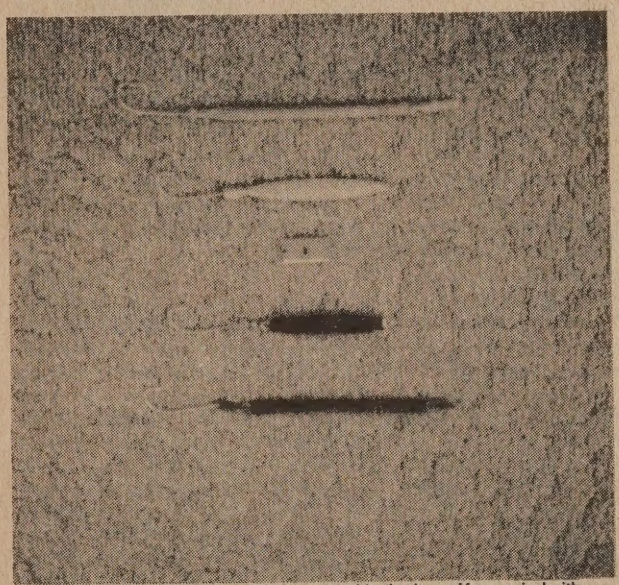


PHOTO SEVEN: After jig has cooled, excess tubing is trimmed from swivel with a razor blade. Notice how tubing in top two jigs has shrunk to the shape of the jigs and the barrel swivels.

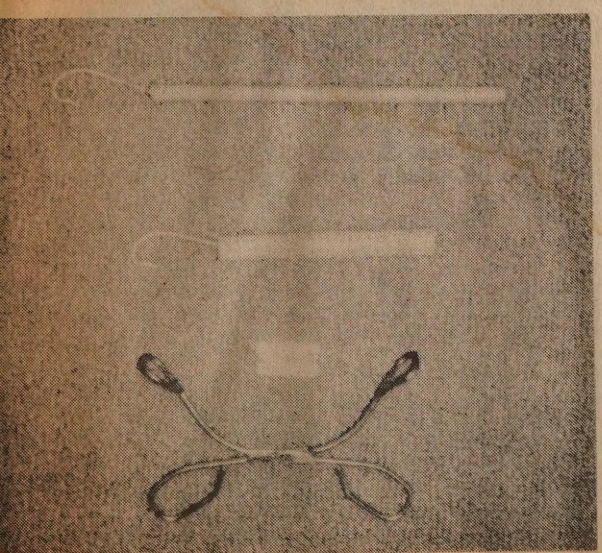


PHOTO FIVE: Sleeve the tubing over the jig, covering all swivels.

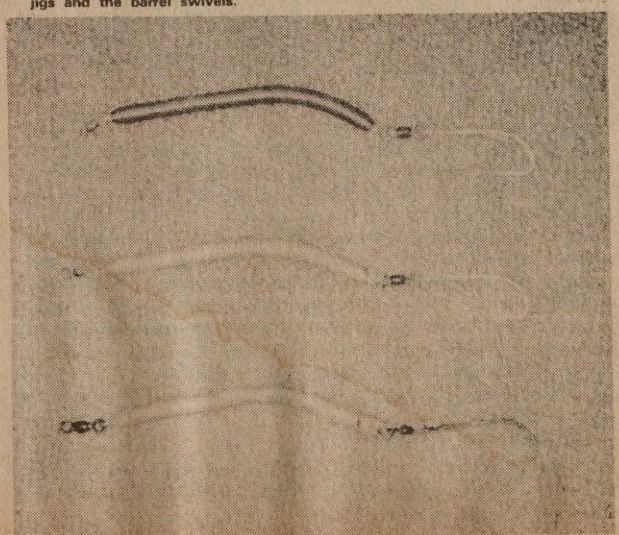


PHOTO EIGHT: *(Top to bottom.)* DeMaio Jig with black HST; DeMaio Jig with red HST; red DeMaio Jig that caught 26 bluefish before being "retired."

ROD BUILDING

Part Five—*Basic Guide Wrapping*

by Dr. William A. Muller

By now we may be wondering why we let ourselves in for all of this work. On the other hand, we have gained an appreciation for the craftsmanship invested by local tackle shops and manufacturers in order to produce the equipment that we use and enjoy. Then too, by now the rod is taking on some character and we can sit back and admire our own work, while dreaming of all the outsized fish we will catch with the rod next season.

We are now ready to wrap the guides in place. Once again we can be as simple in our specifications as we like. We can even secure the guides with plastic electrician's tape or we can invent our own personal winding schemes that identify this as **our rod!**

MATERIALS:

We will need the following materials. Nylon winding thread, guides, tape, a metal file, scissors or razor blade, a small length of six to ten pound test monofilament (about four inches), and a device for controlling the winding thread as we apply it.

Today, winding thread is available which has been through a process that fixes the color of the thread. Years ago, we would have to apply color preservative to the completed windings in order to ensure that they would retain their bright and deep color.

TIPTOP:

The first task should be to secure the tiptop in place. The tiptop should fit well; i.e., it should slip over the end of the rod easily, but without too much "play." Although many anglers still prefer to use ferrule cement to secure the tiptop because it affords the opportunity for easy removal, I prefer to use epoxy glue. The ferrule cement becomes brittle or dry with time after years of exposure to salt and sun. First the tip may spin a little and then it falls off. I prefer the epoxy, but I sacrifice the time that it takes for epoxy glue to set and I know that if I ever want to change the tiptop that I will have to break the very end of the rod. To me the sacrifice is worthwhile, but many prefer the ferrule cement. Ferrule cement is first heated with a flame until it starts to drip. A drop or two is placed into the hollow end of the tiptop. The cement will set very quickly as it cools. Heat the tiptop with a flame and push the tiptop down on the rod blank. Now, sight along the shaft and adjust the tiptop so that it aligns perfectly before the cement sets again.

FILING THE GUIDES:

The guides should not be used unchanged in their purchased condition. The ends should be filed down so that the windings can gradually work up the slope of the metal. A good metal file is required for this job. I confess that it is this filing job that I dislike. I usually wind up with a less-than-perfect job and fingernails that are filed down to bare skin. Conventional guides can usually be placed in a vise, but larger spinning guides frequently bend when they are held this way, and I ultimately hold them with my fingers. A grinding wheel is probably the best answer to the problem; but without one the file will have to do. File the ends of the guides so that they taper both on the sides and at the tip.

WINDING THE GUIDE:

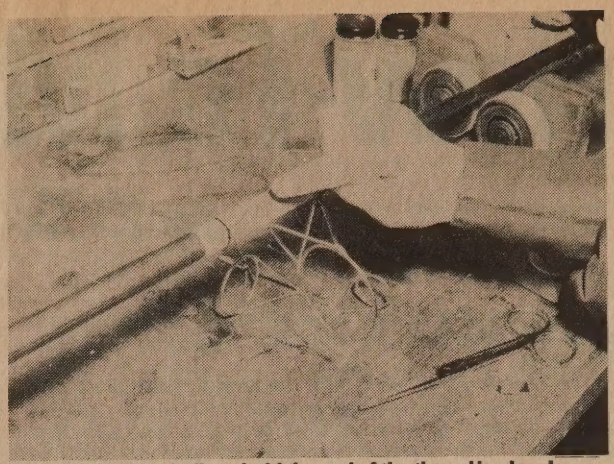
Select a guide and place it on the blank so that the guide, the reel seat, and the tiptop are all aligned. Tape one end of the guide. Electrical tape, masking tape, or even plain Scotch tape will work well. Check that the guide is still lined up properly before winding. The approach to laying the windings down can be as simple as you like, or as fancy. The first rod I made, I rolled the end of the blank along the floor with one hand and applied the windings with the other. The fingers do become fatigued using this method, but when only a limited amount of work needs to be done, it isn't that horrible. When I started making rods for sale, the volume of work prohibited this technique and I had to find a better way. I constructed a roller assembly. I made a V-frame out of scrap wood and then I scrounged up some rollers, which can be old skate wheels, furniture rollers, or any wheel that is small enough and requires little effort to put in motion. Mount the wheels on the wood so that they almost touch: this will allow the blank to turn and will keep the blank from sliding all over the place. Two of these cradles are required. Although you can make or purchase thread tension control devices, I always preferred to apply this by hand since I believe that it offers more control.

The winds should begin before the point where the guide is first encountered. The thread should be placed and held on the blank at a slight angle so that the first six turns of thread will overlap it and hold it in place. Turn the blank on the V-frame with the palm of your hand. If you are right-handed, use your left hand and vice versa. The windings should be very close to each other so that no space or unevenness occurs. The pressure that is exerted should not be too intense since there is the chance that heavy pressure will break the thread or damage the blank. On the other hand, the pressure should not be so minimal that the windings are loose. The guide must be held firmly in place.

One of the best ways to prevent damage to the blank from the pressure that is generated by multiple windings on the guides is to underwind the guides. Simply, this is a uniform winding that is put down first under the guides. Underwinding allows the guides to sit on a shock absorber of thread, provides a more professional looking product, and prevents salt water from creeping under the windings where it will corrode the guide feet. When the underwinding is complete, it should be coated with several layers of marine varnish or polyurethane.

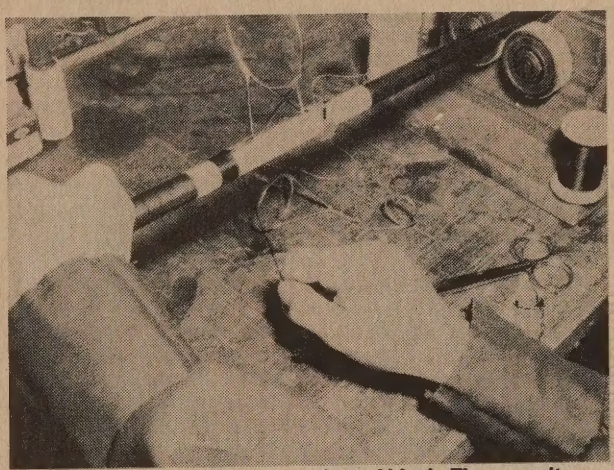
When either underwinding or securing the guides, stop about a dozen turns before the point at which the windings will end. Remember, do not allow the windings to "creep" up the struts of the guides. Take the four inch length of thin monofilament and bend it in the middle and lay it against the blank so that the bend in the line points in the direction the windings are going. Finish winding. When the windings are complete, cut the thread, push it through the loop of the monofilament, and hold in place with a thumb and index finger. Pull the loop of monofilament by the free ends so that you will be pulling it backwards. Stop when the loop is brought tight against the windings. Now pull on the winding thread. Cut the winding thread so that about one-sixteenth of an inch extends beyond the loop. Place a fingernail down on the last winding just behind the loop and pull the monofilament line out from under the windings. If you have done this correctly, the end of the winding will be under several turns of thread giving a tight and good-looking job. You will also get an idea of how accurate your winding pressure was. If it was too tight, you'll have a hard time pulling the monofilament out from under the windings. If it was too loose, the windings will come free

Rod building materials. 1. Varnish. 2. V-frame. 3. Winding thread. 4. Reel seat. 5. Cork tape.

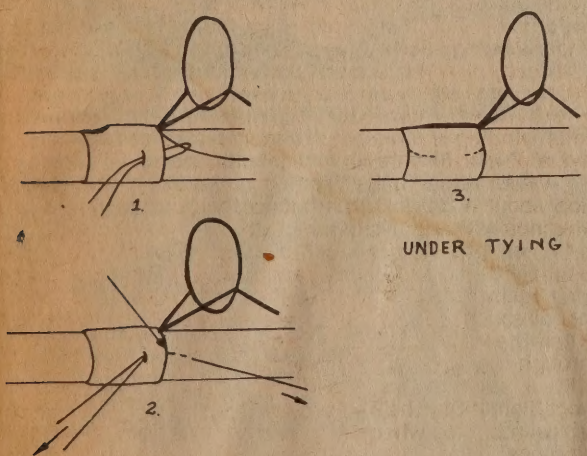


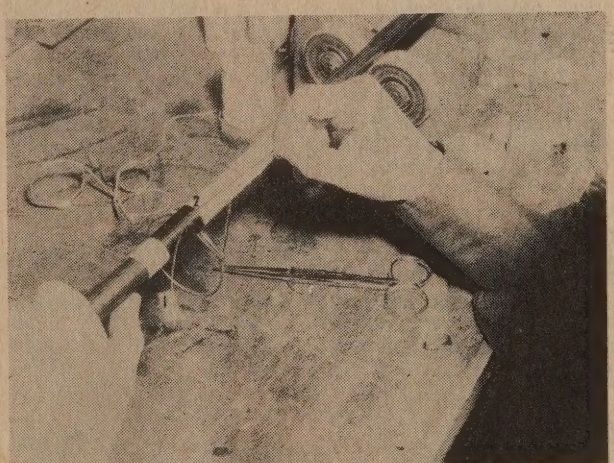
The initial windings hold the end of the thread in place!

Underwinding. The rod building materials are organized on the work table for convenience.



Windings are made by turning the rod blank. The opposite end of the guide is held in place with a piece of tape.





1. A short length of monofilament line with a piece of tape on the end so that it can be located quickly on the work bench. 2. The end of the thread goes through the monofilament loop before it is trimmed and pulled under the windings.

and the job must be redone.

Repeat the procedure on the other side of the guide and then go on to the next guide. Be careful that the guides are aligned during the winding process. Several coats of marine varnish or polyurethane will be needed to make the windings sealed and good-looking. Some fishermen use three coats. I prefer many thin coats. I don't count them. Instead, I apply layer after layer, until all signs of the surfaces of individual threads disappear and the windings take on the look of a solid mass. Allow plenty of time for each coat to dry thoroughly. Take your time and the end result will be more satisfying and functional. I know that in some cases I have put as many as twelve coats of thin varnish on the guides, but some of those rods are still in service and they show no signs of discoloration, "whiting out," or cracking. In short, they look almost as good today as the did the first time they were used.

Next week: Fancy-Pantsy.

How-To Make Molds

by D. W. Anthony

Science marches on! Thank goodness, because before modern silicone rubber compounds, I had a devil of a time with molds.

Whenever I was faced with the task of making a mold, I had a choice: machine out a metal mold or mix up the plaster. A metal mold is difficult to make, and a limited future need for the molded item may not warrant spending the time to make such a permanent mold. Years ago when tins were a frequently used item, a brass mold was just the ticket, but today things have become more complicated. There are tins, jig heads, plastic shrimp, plastic worms, sinkers, weighted snatch-hooks, and bucktail heads.

You may only need a few of some of these items and you should consider the possibility of purchasing the item. You might also consider purchasing molds from distributors. Molds are available for a diverse group of items from worms to sinkers to jigs. Companies like Midland Tackle, Sloatsburg, N.Y., carry a wide choice of molds at reasonable prices. Although the molds may cost a few dollars, the cost per tackle item will still be significantly less than lures purchased in finished form.

But there are a number of valid reasons why one would want to make molds. First, if you have need for large quantities of something, it will be cheaper to make your own. Second, if a group of fishermen get together and each man makes large quantities of a given item to be shared amongst members of the group, it becomes advantageous to take the trouble to make a mold, even if a given angler will make only limited use of a given item. Third, it's fun to make a mold and produce homemade tackle. It's satisfying to catch fish on a handmade item, too!

If you do decide to try your hand at making some molds, you have a number of strategies open to you.

1. Tool your own brass, steel, or aluminum molds.
2. Cast a mold out of plaster.
3. Cast a mold out of thermal plastic.
4. Cast a mold out of silicone rubber material.

Unless you work in a machine shop or own tools to do the job, why not forget about method number one? Likewise, the heat and toxic fumes generated by thermal plastics prohibits their general use in a home workshop. But these products do result in excellent molds: they are strong, smooth, and durable.

But for simplicity and economy, concentrate your efforts on choices number 2 and 4.

PLASTER MOLDS:

Advantages:

1. Inexpensive.
2. Easy to use.
3. Mold-making does not destroy original.
4. No fumes.
5. Minimal tools and equipment.

Disadvantages:

1. brittle.
2. not durable.
3. must be pre-heated for use with liquid plastics.

Recommendations: Use dental plaster. It is more durable but costs a little more, and gives a smoother finish. It can be purchased at most drug stores.

Materials:

1. a. milk cartons—either quart, half-gallon, depending upon size of item to be molded.
   b. small plastic food storage vessels for round items.
   c. paper drinking cups.
2. Silicone spray.
3. Mixing container and stirrer.
4. Thin putty knife or thin knife blade.
5. Hammer.
6. Rubber bands.
7. Nails or ¼ inch dowel.
8. Plaster.
9. File (Rat Tail) - ½ inch.

Procedure:

1. Select item to be molded.
2. Gather materials.
3. Estimate the amount of plaster needed to half-fill the the container.

Hint: Use the same **size** container to mix plaster that is used to mold it.

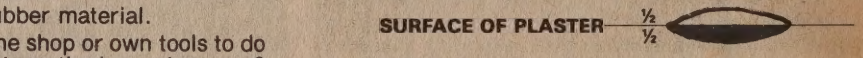
4. If milk carton is used for long item, cut away one side.
5. Mix plaster according to directions.

Hint:

a. Mixture should be pourable, but not soupy.
b. Do not beat the mixture—stir. Violent stirring will distribute air bubbles in plaster that will produce a rough molded surface.

6. Pour mixture slowly into molding form.
7. Take two 2-penny nails or two 4-inch pieces of 1/4 inch dowel. Test the plaster for the beginning of setting by pushing dowels into mixture at places which will not receive the item to be molded. When the dowels stand up by themselves and the mixture is still wet, it is time introduce the tackle item. Place the item on the plaster surface. If it sinks, the mixture is not ready. If you cannot push half of the thickness of the item into the plaster, it has set too much.

Desired Result:



8. Leave tackle item in place and allow the plaster to harden.
9. When hard, mix additional plaster (same volume as before).
10. Spray hardened surface of plaster with silicone spray. Spread vaseline on nails and dowels.
11. Pour the plaster slowly into milk carton.
12. Remove from milk carton when fully cured (two hours, overnight better).
13. Find the seam between the two halves of the mold. Insert thin knife blade into seam gently and twist blade slightly. Repeat this every inch all around the mold. If pieces do not separate, lay mold down lengthwise, insert knife blade, tap gently with a hammer. Repeat every inch.
14. Pull gently off greased dowels.

Note: Nails and dowels ensure that halves will fit properly when pouring lead or plastic.

15. Determine where pour spout will be (usually at the fattest part of the molded item).
16. Remove original.
17. Using a rat tail file or a bastard file, file away the plaster in front of the mold cavity.
18. Put the mold halves together and wrap with two rubber bands. You are ready to mold lures.

Silicone Rubber Molds:

These molds are essentially handled the same way as plaster molds, except that the mixing and curing times are different.

Advantages:

1. Does not destroy original item.
2. Minimum tools.
3. Durable.
4. Pliable.

Disadvantages:

1. Some fumes produced.
2. More expensive (about $15 per pound).
3. More mess.

Materials:

Most silicone rubber is available in kits which include base material, catalyst, molding caps, stirrers, and rubber bands. The base and catalyst are all you need; the other items can be found around the house.

Some friends have suggested that Compound D is superior to B, but I have found no problem with either one.

Complete directions are supplied with the chemicals. They are easy to follow and I won't take space here to discuss them. However, I can offer several suggestions aimed at making your life easier.

First, unlike plaster, you cannot wash this stuff away. Use items that can be wiped clean or discarded. Spread newspaper on the work-table to keep it clean. Have disposable rags on hand. Wear old clothes.

Second, give advanced thought to how much material you will need. Mix too much and it will be wasted. Mix too little and you'll have a problem.

Third, choose a mid-range curing time.

Fourth, mix gently to avoid trapping bubbles which will destroy the mold's quality.

Fifth, stir the base-catalyst mix until the color is uniform.

Sixth, be sure to coat the original item with the rubber mixture before suspending it in the container to avoid air bubble holes on the inside mold surface.

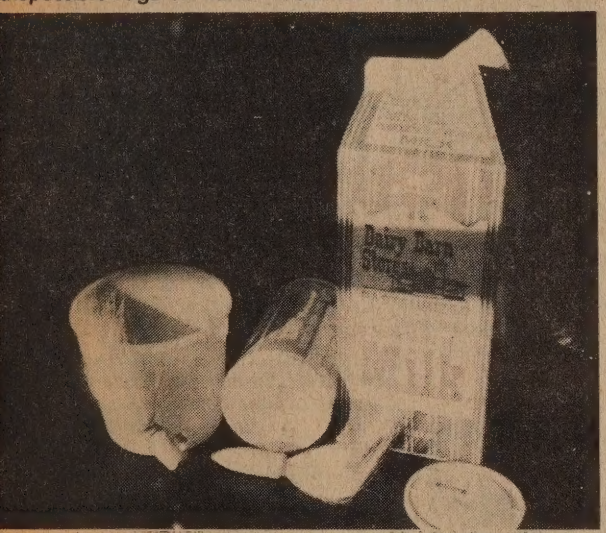
Seventh, pour the mold in one step instead of the two-halves approach used with plaster.

Eighth, cut the cured mold (about 36 hours) with a razor blade. In order to get a good mold, you must cut the silastic mold exactly in half. Measure first, draw lines with a pencil, and then cut.

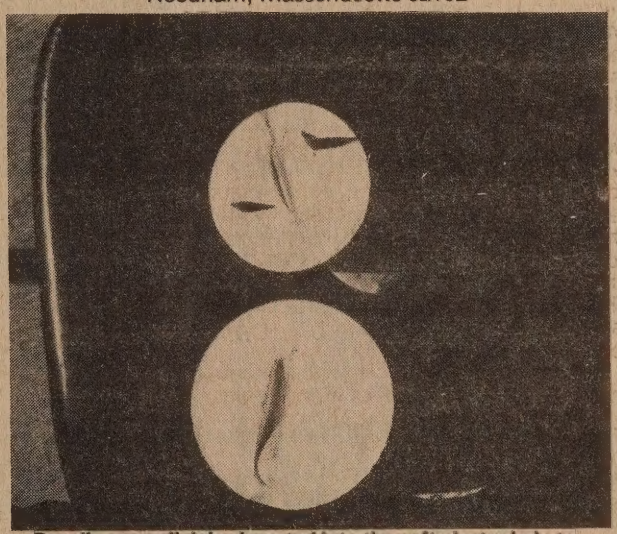
Ninth, keep the halves of the mold together when not in use to avoid loss. Use low-tension rubber bands to avoid changing the shape of the mold.

Silastic RTV silicone rubber can be purchased from:

Midland Tackle Co.
66 Route 17
Sloatsburg, New York 10974
and
Fibber McGee's Closet
P. O. Box 88
Needham, Masschusetts 02192

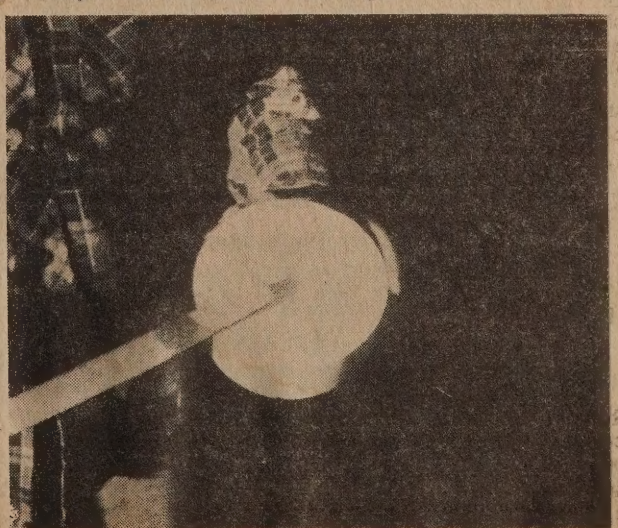


Many types of containers are suitable for pouring plaster molds. Milk containers are good for large items, while food storage containers work well for leadheads and other small items.



Pencils or small doles inserted into the soft plaster help to line up the mold halves before pouring lead.

Several finished molds showing how each half holds one-half the impression.



Use a file to etch a cone-shaped pouring spout to receive the lead. Make the spout opposite to the hook position.

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Eagle** sailed Sunday and fished the Oil Wreck, roughly 8 miles south of the BA where a fair pick was had on whiting and ling.

Captain Joe Miller of the **Atomic II** also reports fair catches of whiting and ling, both Saturday and Sunday.

FREEPORT

The StarStream II sailed only day this past week due to the freezing weather. Two cod were taken plus a fair pick on the whiting.

CAPTREE

According to Captain Rich Abrams of the **Yankee I**, the Great South Bay Clammers in addition to clams, are bringing up a few flounders each day in the Tongs which has happened in past winters preceding a strong flounder spring.

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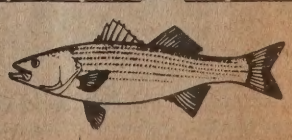

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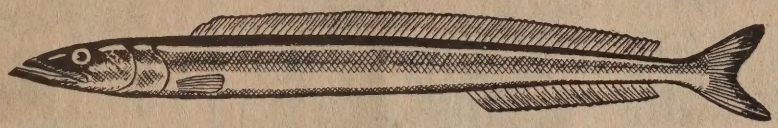

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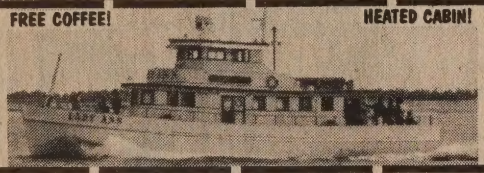

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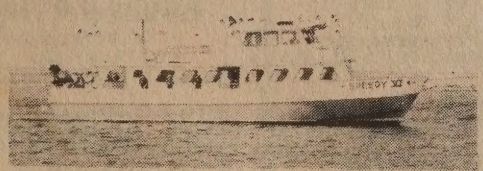

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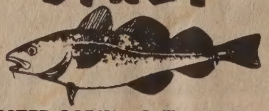

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SHRINKABLE TUBING

(Continued from page 14.)

heat is applied to the tubing around the lure itself, make sure the skirt isn't heated or it will shrink and lose its flexibility. For making your own custom made lures with tubing, various shaped lead heads and hook combinations can be purchased at many local tackle shops or via mail order from Midland Tackle Co., 66 Route 17, Sloatsburg, New York 10974. Send for their catalog. Skirted treble hooks can also be made by using a tubing size that will fit snug around the shank diameter when it is shrunk. An egg sinker jig can easily be fashioned with a three-quarter inch expanded tube size and an ounce-and-a-half egg sinker. Jigs can be made in two-colors, like those shown in photo one. Just cover the entire jig with one color tubing, then cut a length of tubing of another color that is about half the length of the jig. Slide it over the jig and heat. It can cover one end of the jig or the middle—the design is up to you.

After working quite a bit with heat tubing, I have found that for the best results an even heat should be applied to the tubing. This is difficult when using an open flame, which causes the tubing to shrink unevenly. When covering diamond jigs, I have obtained my best results by putting the jigs that have been sleeved with tubing into a pot of boiling water, which makes the tubing shrink evenly all around the jig. Add salt to the water to raise the boiling temperature. I make the bond at the narrow ends of the jig even tighter by holding them over an open flame and slowly rotating it. The excess tubing is easily cut off with a razor blade. During the shrinking process the jig will naturally get very hot, so precautions should be taken not to get burned in the process. As shown in photo 6, tongs like those use for cooking are ideal to hold the jig with. A hair dryer may also be used for shrinking the tubing, but it has to be a good one that can generate temperature of at least 212° Fahrenheit—the minimum temperature necessary to heat the tubing to its crystalline melting point. A hair dryer rated at 215 watts will do the trick. Best results are obtained by holding the nozzle about a half-inch from the tubing. Placing the objects covered with tubing into a pre-heated oven on a cookie sheet also works very well. Don't worry about making a mess—the tubing doesn't actually melt, so it won't adhere to anything.

One final word. I haven't figured it out yet, but for some reason, only the diameter of the tubing shrinks—not its length. Half-inch tubing four inches long whill shrink to tubing with a quarter-inch diameter, but it will still be four inches long. Why? Damned if I know, but then again, who cares—as long as it works.

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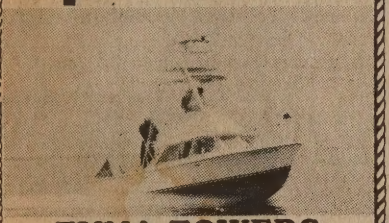

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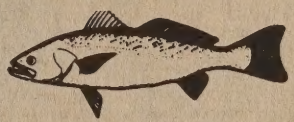

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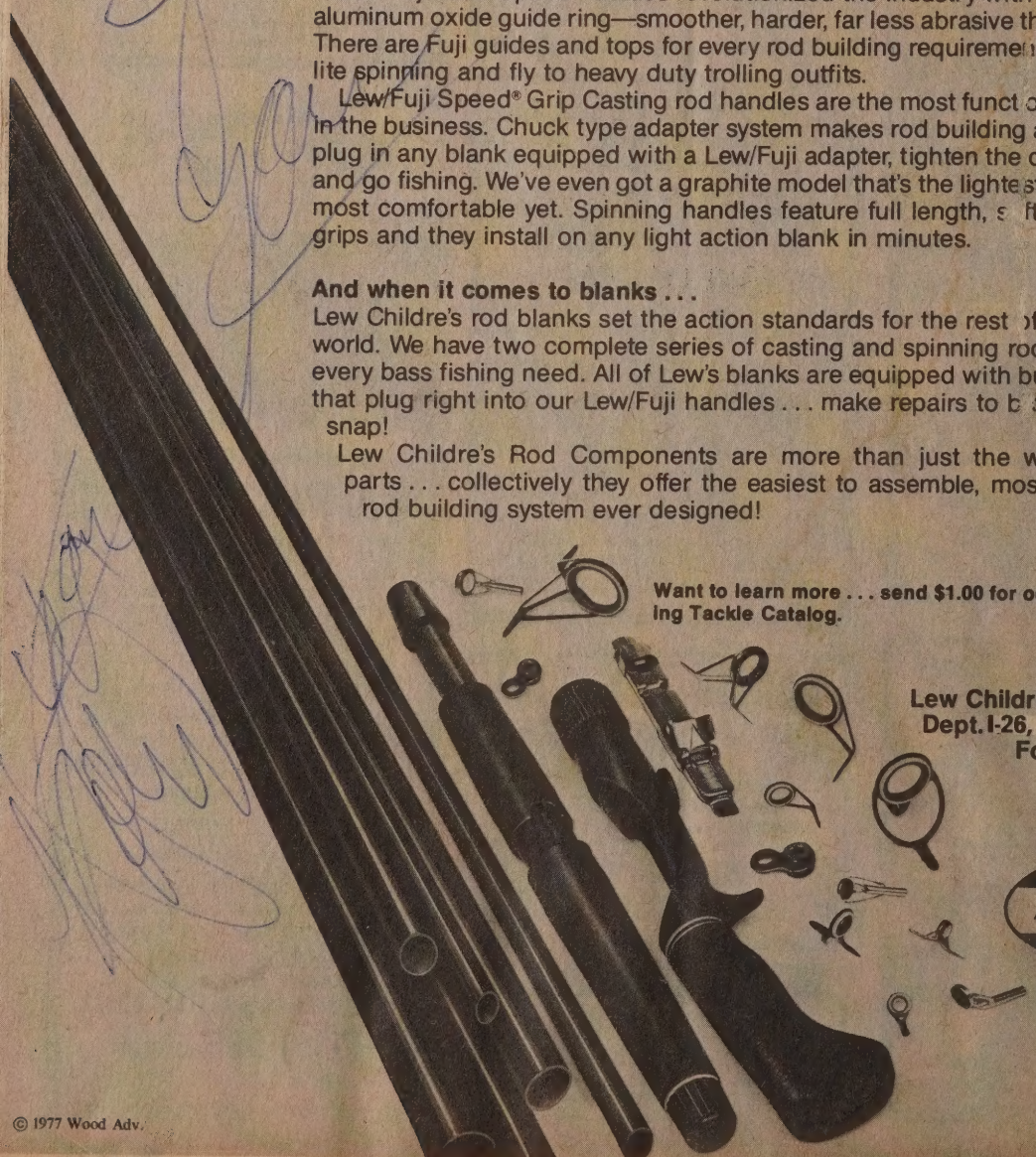

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